(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) India produces adequate quantities of non-coking coals to meet the indigenous demands of power houses as well as industries. Production of coking coal in the country has also been increasting over the years. However Integrated Steel Plants import metallurgical grade low ash coking coal for bridging the gap between the indigenous availability and the demand and also for improving their overall blend for use in steel plants. Neither these imports nor the recent amendments to Coal Mines National'sation Act can be interpreted as indicative of failure of coal mines nationalisation.

(c) and (d) Individual proposals for coal mining by private parties will be examined on merits of each case, under the relevant legal provisions, including Coal Mines Nationalisation Act, 1973.

Status of mega projects in Tamil Nadu

3558. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) What is the present/latest implementation status of the following mega projects being undertaken in Tamil Nadu;

(A) Thermal Power Station Stage—II; and

(B) Mine I Expansion Project;

(b) The efforts made and the results thereof in facilitationg projects implementation and the total fund allocated and spent so far on the projects; and

(c) by when these projects are going to be completed and what are the reasons for the delay, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) & (A) All the four units of 210 MW each of Second Thermal Power Station Stage II have been commissioned in March, 1991, December, 1991, October, 1992 and June, 1993 respectively.

(B) Mine I expansion project has been sanctioned in March, 1992 and arrangements are being made to finalise the tender documents for the mining equipment.

(b) and (c) All the four units of Second Thermal Power Station Stage II have since been commissioned. An amount of Rs. 1219 crores have been spent upto 31st March, 1993. Fund alloation for this project during the 8th Plan is Rs. 244 crores which is expected to meet the requirement of balance amount to be spent.

For facilitating the implementation of Mine I expansion project on an integrated basis with Thermal Power Station I expansion, discussions have been held with Financial Institution who have desired that mining project should be taken up for implemention only after the First Thermal Power Station expansion is sanctioned by the Government. Against a sanctioned cost of Rs. 1336.93 crores for Mine I expansion project, fund allocation during 8th Plan is Rs. 423 crores. An amount of Rs. 4.39 crores has been spent upto 31-3-93. First Mine Expansion is scheduled to achieve full capacity by 1997-98.

Opening of captive coal mines by private sector

3559. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has recently issued a Notification allowing